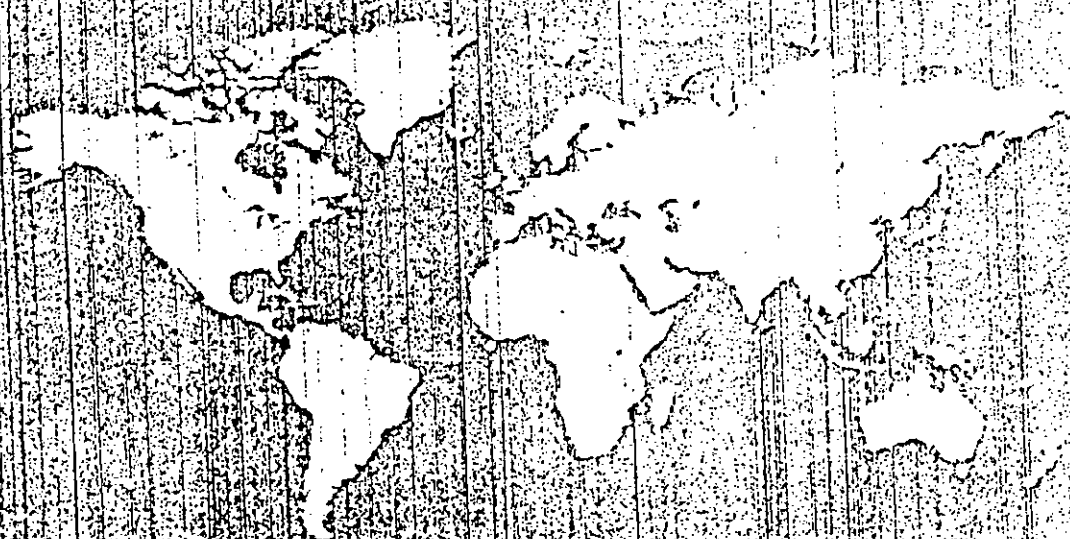


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LATIN AMERICA BRIEF 000000, 15 JULY 1977.

CHILE: //CHILEAN PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S ANNOUNCED PLANS TO RETURN THE COUNTRY TO CIVILIAN RULE BY 1985 REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT POLICY DEPARTURE. HIS BLUEPRINT FOR A RETURN TO "NORMALITY," THE DELIVERY TO WASHINGTON OF AN ADVANCE TEXT OF HIS SPEECH ON JULY 9, AND RECENT REPORTS THAT HE IS CONSIDERING RESTRICTING THE POWER OF THE NOTORIOUS NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE (DINA), ALL SUGGEST THAT PINOCHET HAS FINALLY BECOME CONVINCED THAT DRACONIAN MEASURES ARE NO LONGER NECESSARY IN CHILE AND THAT IT IS TIME FOR A NEW IMAGE.//

//PINOCHET'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE FOR A RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE CULMINATES IN LIMITED POPULAR ELECTIONS IN 1985. THESE ELECTIONS WOULD CHOOSE TWO-THIRDS OF THE DELEGATES TO A LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY THAT WOULD THEN APPOINT A NEW PRESIDENT. PRIOR TO THIS, THE JUNTA IN 1980 WILL NAME THE MEMBERS OF A SINGLE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER THAT WILL RULE JOINTLY WITH THE ARMED FORCES FOR FOUR OR FIVE YEARS.//

//PINOCHET WARNED THAT THE ENTIRE PLAN DEPENDS ON CONTINUED

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///THE REASONS FOR PINOCHET'S SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT ARE
OBSURE, BUT HE HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM THE
MILITARY AND THE GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHMENT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT
CHILE'S HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE AND BEGIN SOME PROCESS TOWARD RETURNING
TO POLITICAL NORMALITY. COMPLAINTS BY MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA AND THE
MILITARY SERVICES ABOUT THE POOR HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE AND DINA'S EX-
CESSIVE POWER HAVE INCREASED IN RECENT MONTHS. MANY SENIOR OFFICERS
[REDACTED] HAVE TOLD PINOCHET THAT SUBVERSION IS UNDER CONTROL, THE
STATE OF SIEGE SHOULD BE LIFTED, AND DINA'S ARREST POWER SHOULD BE
TERMINATED. // [REDACTED]

//THE RESULTS OF SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT EYZAGUIRRE'S SURPRISE VISIT LAST MONTH TO A DINA DETENTION CENTER MAY HAVE BEEN THE LAST STRAW. EYZAGUIRRE SENT COPIES OF HIS REPORT TO THE OTHER JUNTA MEMBERS, NAVY ADMIRAL MERINO AND AIR FORCE GENERAL LEIGH, WHO

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HAVE LONG ADVOCATED A MOVE TOWARD CIVILIAN RULE, AND CARABINERO
(NATIONAL POLICE) GENERAL MENDOZA.

[REDACTED]

//SUBSEQUENTLY, PINOCHET [REDACTED] ORDERED DINA TO PRE-
PARE A STUDY OF HOW THE ORGANIZATION COULD BE CONVERTED TO A
STRICTLY INTELLIGENCE-COLLECTION AGENCY. THE REORGANIZED DINA
WOULD HAVE NO DETENTION POWERS AND WOULD WORK CLOSELY WITH THE INTEL-
LIGENCE DIRECTORATES OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THE CARABINEROS. THE
PRESIDENT ORDERED THE REORGANIZATION PLAN TO BE PRESENTED TO HIM
BEFORE THE END OF JULY. PINOCHET, UNDOUBTEDLY REFLECTING HIS
AVERSION TO THE CHAOS OF THE ALLENDE YEARS, HAS BEEN DRAGGING HIS
FEET ON THE DINA ISSUE. HE PROBABLY BELIEVES THAT IT IS PREMATURE
TO CURTAIL DINA OR TO RETURN THE COUNTRY TO CIVILIAN RULE BEFORE
1985. CHARACTERISTICALLY, HE LASHED OUT DURING HIS SPEECH AGAINST
FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN CHILEAN AFFAIRS UNDER THE GUISE OF DEFENDING
HUMAN RIGHTS. //

//PRESSURE FROM HIS COLLEAGUES IN RECENT MONTHS HAS MADE

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PINOCHET'S STANCE INCREASINGLY UNSUPPORTABLE. THE FACT THAT POLITICAL NORMALIZATION WILL BE SUPERVISED CLOSELY BY THE ARMED FORCES PROBABLY INCREASED HIS WILLINGNESS TO MAKE THE ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT. IN ADDITION, INTERNAL SECURITY IS WELL IN HAND AND THE COUNTRY IS ON THE ROAD TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY. AN ADDED INDUCEMENT, OF COURSE, IS THE ANNOUNCEMENT'S EXPECTED BENEFICIAL EFFECTS ON THE GOVERNMENT'S POPULAR SUPPORT AND ITS HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE.//

//VERY LITTLE IN THE PRESENT OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT WILL ACTUALLY CHANGE, AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT. IT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE THAT PINOCHET WILL BACKSLIDE ON REFORMING DINA OR ENDING THE STATE OF SIEGE. THE FACT IS, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS NOW AN ANNOUNCED SPECIFIC PLAN TO RETURN THE CIVILIANS TO A POLITICAL ROLE AND THE MILITARY TO THE BARRACKS.

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Figure 1. *Staphylococcus aureus* strains used in this study.

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